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EASTERN BLUEBIRD BANDED IN TENNESSEE RECAPTURED IN WISCONSIN

Sandy Bivens and Diana McLusky
Warner Park Nature Center, Metro Parks and Recreation
Nashville, Tennessee

On 8 July 2010 five eight-day-old Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) nestlings were banded by one of the authors, licensed bird bander Diana McLusky. The nestlings were in box #29-2, on the Percy Warner Golf Course in Warner Park, Davidson County (36.08369°, -86.87222°, Figure 1). One of the nestlings received band #2251-20687. It fledged on or about 19 July 2010. The box, on a fairway lined with pine (*Pinus sp.*) trees, was facing west and mounted 1.2 m (4 ft) from the ground on a yardage post.

In June 2016 the Warner Park Banding Station, Permit #21946, received a report from the United States Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory (USGS) that one of our banded birds had been encountered by a bander in Wisconsin.

On 2 May 2016, #2251-20687 was captured by licensed bird bander Ann Wick. This female was incubating six eggs in nest box #75 in Black Earth, Dane County, Wisconsin (43.14138°, -89.70797°. Figure 2) approximately 822 km (511 miles) NNW of Nashville. At this time she was 5 years, 10 months old. The oldest known Eastern Bluebird lived 10 years, 6 months (USGS 2021), although most bluebirds (50 percent of adults, 75 percent of young) will die during a typical year (Pitts 2011). Five of the six

Figure 1. An Eastern Bluebird box at Percy Warner Golf Course in Nashville where the nestling was banded. Photo by Diana McLusky

eggs hatched and fledged on or about 27 May 2016. Female #2251-20687 was captured again that year in the same box and raised another brood. She has not been recaptured since. The Peterson style box with a predator guard was mounted on a pole along a roadside in an open rural area.

Ann Wick has managed a Bluebird Nest Box Trail with 177 boxes covering 80.5 km (50 miles) for more than twenty years and has banded thousands of bluebirds. She bands the nestlings and focuses her study on recapturing adults (Berger et al. 2005). Our Tennessee bluebird was only the third foreign recapture she had encountered in her twenty-two years of banding (Wick 2016).

Figure 2. The Eastern Bluebird box in Black Earth, Wisconsin where the nestling banded in Nashville nested in 2016 as an adult.
Photo by Ann Wick

This is the fifth record of an Eastern Bluebird banded in Tennessee encountered in another state, and the first encountered in Wisconsin (USGS 2016). Three were encountered in Alabama and one in Illinois (USGS 2016). Two of those Alabama birds were banded in the Warner Parks in the 1950s by Amelia R. Laskey (Pitts 2011, USGS 2016). The Bird Banding Laboratory database has five records of Eastern Bluebirds encountered in Tennessee that were banded in other states: North Carolina, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin (USGS 2016).

The Warner Park Bluebird Nest Box Project was established by Amelia R. Laskey in 1936 with E.D. Schreiber and Harry S. Vaughn (Schreiber 1938; Laskey 1938, 1939). Laskey, a nationally known ornithologist, coordinated the program for 40 years. She kept meticulous records and published many articles in *The Migrant* and other journals. Her research was continued by Virginia Price who turned the project over to the Warner Park Nature Center staff in 1977. The authors, Sandy Bivens and Diana McLusky, have each coordinated this project for more than 20 years, banded thousands of birds, and continue to work together for bluebirds.

The Warner Park Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project may be the oldest active and continuously run project in the United States. Today a team of Warner Park volunteers monitors the 50 boxes. They band more than 150 nestlings and adults each year and educate the public about birds, their natural history and conservation (Figure 3).

In northern regions, Eastern Bluebirds migrate south for the winter, or are considered partial migrants with some birds migrating further south when food supply or winter weather conditions require (Gowaty and Plissner 2020). In Tennessee bluebirds are considered permanent residents, usually staying near areas where they hatched, and do not migrate south for the winter (Pitts 2011). To our knowledge, there are no records of resident bluebirds here emigrating north to nest. This exciting story of an encounter of one of our banded birds by an enthusiastic bluebird bander in Wisconsin inspires us to keep studying birds and reminds us there is so much more to learn.

Figure 3. The 2015 Warner Park Bluebird Team, left to right, includes John Kell, Sue Shallow, Sandy Bivens, Kim Bailey, and Diana McLusky. Photo by Deb Beazley

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank T. David Pitts and Editor Bob Ford for their assistance and encouragement. We gratefully acknowledge Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey and the many volunteers and Warner Park staff who have helped keep this project going since 1936. Our thanks also go to the golf course and park maintenance staff. We appreciate the ongoing support of Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation and the Friends of Warner Parks.

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ROUND TABLE NOTES

RED-TAILED HAWK OBSERVED CATCHING DRAGONFLIES – On 3 August 2020 at approximately 1:45 pm I was birding near Reelfoot Lake in Lake County when I observed a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) catching dragonflies in the air in the manner of a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). There were masses of Wandering Gliders (*Pantala flavescens*) and Spot-winged Gliders (*Pantala hymenaea*) feeding over a soybean field, and the young hawk would soar above the swarms of dragonflies and then drop and snatch them out of the air with its talons. There were at least four Mississippi Kites nearby that were foraging in the same manner. I also observed the hawk on two occasions bring its talons to its bill and eat the dragonflies in mid-air, on the wing, like a Mississippi Kite. I have not observed this behavior previously and am not aware of any published accounts of this behavior for this species. It is well documented that other *buteo* species like Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) and Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) will capture and consume large insects like dragonflies on the wing, but I could find no other written cases of a Red-tailed Hawk doing it.

Mark Greene, Trenton, Tennessee

NESTING HENSLOW'S SPARROWS AT BELLS BEND PARK – From 2009 – 2012 Bells Bend Park, Nashville, Davidson County was known to be a breeding location for Henslow's Sparrow (*Centronyx henslowii*). Although the species is occasionally recorded during migration, local nesting has not been documented in several years. The last eBird report of more than one individual bird was in 2012. On 23 June 2020 a Henslow's Sparrow was observed and photographed at Bells Bend Park and submitted to eBird by Colin Andrew.

Frank Fekel and I were both in the park on 25 June and had been given the precise location by Mr. Andrew. The bird had since been heard singing the evening before in that location by Michael Smith. On reaching the location in the far northwest field of the park, Frank and I fairly quickly heard the distinctive "tsi-lick!" song, and soon thereafter an adult Henslow's Sparrow flew closer to us and spent at least 30 minutes singing from various exposed perches. Then a second bird flew into a line of slightly denser vegetation several yards back, and the singing bird flew back to join it. We were given binocular views of both adults side by side until they dropped together to the ground and out of sight. The presumed male came back out and resumed singing in just a few moments.

I went back out to the same location on 4 July, hoping to find evidence of successful nesting. The birds were not singing, but there was an occasional call note. After about half an hour of scanning the grass tops, an adult Henslow's flew in and was greeted by three recently fledged juveniles, hopping up to the tops of the Ironweed plants (*Vernonia sp.*). The young birds showed much more buff yellow-colored plumage and very little of the darker breast streaks of the adult. The other parent was then also seen again as well. Paige O'Neal had arrived before the sighting, and she and I both were able to observe and photograph the entire family of sparrows.

Henslow's Sparrow is a species in decline and of conservation concern with loss of breeding habitat cited as the primary culprit. This first documented successful nesting at Bells Bend Park in many years could help inform Metro Nashville Parks' future management.

Graham Gerdeman, Nashville, Tennessee

CLIFF SWALLOWS NESTING IN HAYWOOD COUNTY – Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) are fairly common throughout Tennessee during migration and more locally common during nesting season (Somershoe and Sloan 2015). At the time of the Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas, most nesting occurred in counties near the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers or were located near large reservoirs in the state (Nicolson 1997). Most nesting season occurrences continue to be closely linked to large rivers and reservoirs, although the number of observations of Cliff Swallows distant from those landscape features may be increasing in some parts of the state. In much of west Tennessee, however, relatively few records occur during the early June nesting season in counties more distant from large rivers (eBird 2020).

On 18 August 2019 I found 24 used Cliff Swallow nests on the Interstate 40 bridge over the Hatchie River at the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge, the first documented nesting location of the species in Haywood County. No Cliff Swallows were present; birds had already dispersed after nesting. Observations of Cliff Swallows in the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge area in late May and June notably increased in 2019 compared to previous years (pers. obs., also see eBird 2018), indicating a possible nesting site nearby. On 10 May 2020 I visited the Interstate 40 bridge site at the Hatchie River and observed 8 individual Cliff Swallows and 22 nests. On 18 May 2020 I observed at least 11 individuals and confirmed at least three active nests. More birds and active nests were probable on this date, but birds may have been on eggs or foraging elsewhere. I visited the site again on 6 and 9 June 2020 and observed 27 birds and at least 9 active nests. Many birds were feeding young in the nest. Once again, more birds were probable at the site but may have been foraging elsewhere during my visit. By early July, Cliff Swallows were no longer present.

Cliff Swallow nesting will likely continue to expand in Tennessee to smaller rivers and bodies of water. Those observing new Cliff Swallow nesting locations are encouraged to submit those records to eBird so the expansion of this species can be tracked. I thank Scott Somershoe for his review and improvement of the original draft of this note.

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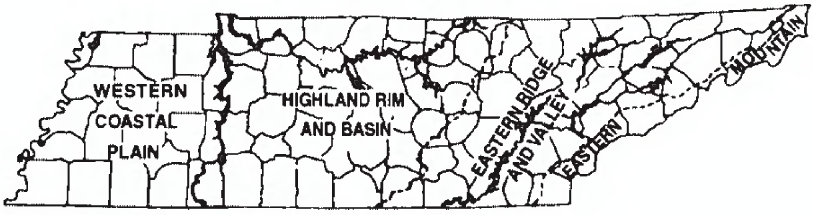
Bob Ford, Brownsville, Tennessee

THE SPRING SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor



1 March - 31 May 2020

A unique and unsettling circumstance occurred this year, beginning in late winter, that affected not only birding, but the lives and livelihoods of us all. A global pandemic of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 forced governments to close schools and non-essential businesses, at least temporarily. Large social gatherings, including bird club meetings and field trips, were canceled. State Parks and State Natural Areas in Tennessee were closed for three weeks in April. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park also closed for a few weeks. Access to some other birding sites was limited. Many business reopenings commenced in May. Large urban centers were impacted more than small cities and rural areas. Social distancing and face masks worn in public became the norm. The pandemic continued into the summer with no end in sight. Despite all this, birders managed to venture out using proper safety protocols to monitor spring migration and document the beginning of the avian breeding season.

A mini-invasion of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks occurred in Middle Tennessee, with two additional sightings in East Tennessee. A Cinnamon Teal appeared in Lake County. With very few records in recent years, two reports of King Rail this season were encouraging. Shorebird highlights included Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, and a new state high count of 2200 Long-billed Dowitchers in West Tennessee. Marbled Godwits occurred in the two western regions. Two Red-necked Phalaropes plus a high tally of 187 Willets were found in the Ridge and Valley region, as was a surprise Royal Tern. Two Brown Pelicans were seen on Center Hill Lake in DeKalb County. White-faced Ibises appeared in three regions, with Glossy Ibises in two regions and White Ibises in Shelby County. Raptors were highlighted by two sightings of Swainson's Hawk in northwest Tennessee and four reports of Mississippi Kite in the two eastern regions. An Ash-throated Flycatcher and Vermilion Flycatcher were seen in West Tennessee, along with three separate Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Excellent numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos were reported statewide. Good numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers were found, also. Bell's Vireos occurred at five sites in the Coastal Plain region and at the traditional Fort Campbell site. Northeast Tennessee had its first record of Brown-headed Nuthatch as this species continues to expand its range in the state. The mild temperatures in March likely contributed to the early arrivals of numerous migrant passerines, most notably early Yellow-throated Vireo and Wood Thrush. Read on for more interesting observations.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
im - immature
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SNA - State Natural Area
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - Temperatures across the region averaged less than a half degree below normal, but the monthly swings were substantial. March was 4.5 degrees above normal, while both April and May were about 2.5 degrees below normal. Rainfall in March was a little over 4 inches above normal, April had a few showers and average accumulation, and May was 3 inches above normal.

Both Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits appeared in Lake County, which also hosted a Whimbrel, Cinnamon Teal, and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Another Whimbrel was in Haywood County. Dyer County had both Glossy and White-faced Ibises, as well as the continuing roost of Long-eared Owls. An adult male Vermilion Flycatcher was a one-day wonder at a residence in Fayette County. Also of note were Fulvous Whistling-Duck, King Rail, and three Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Good numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos and Long-billed Dowitchers were tallied. Bell's Vireos occurred at several sites in three counties.

Thanks to everyone who submitted observations, especially those with photos.

Whistling-Duck - Gallinule: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: 7 Mar (8) Ensley (Michael Jones), ers; 8 Apr (3) L Graham, Madison Co (Matt Pledger, fide Wade Baker, photo on eBird); 18 May (16) Eaton, Gibson Co (MAG); 31 May (2) Fayette Co (DDP). **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**: 22 May (1) Ensley (RS, VS), present for 3rd year. **Ross's Goose**: 6 Apr (1) North Treatment Plant (David Hamilton), lrs. **Eurasian Wigeon**: 17 Mar (1 male) jct Hwy 104 / Great River Rd (AL). **Cinnamon Teal**: 2-11 Apr (1 male) Black Bayou (AL, photo on eBird, m.ob.). **Common Goldeneye**: 11 Mar (2) Eagle L, Shelby Co (David Hilgeman); 8-13 May (1 male) Paris Landing SP (AL), lrs. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 18 Mar (15) Shelby Farms (Alex McWhirter), unusual in Co; 21 Mar (210) Reelfoot L, Obion Co (RS), max. **Horned Grebe**: 15 Mar (5) Herb Parson's L, Fayette Co (BFo). **Red-necked Grebe**: 17 Mar (1) Reelfoot L (RS, DR, AL). **Eared Grebe**: 10 Mar (1) Reelfoot L, Obion Co (RS, VS); 30 Mar (3, breeding plumage) Reelfoot L (RS). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 4-27 May (6 reports of 1-3 birds) Lake Co (MCT, MAG, DR, AL, DDP); 14 May (1) Dyer Co (Kent Freeman); 18 May (1) Munford (DDP). **Common Nighthawk**: 29 Mar (1) Collierville (RH), ers. **Chimney Swift**: 22 Mar (1 / 3) North Treatment Plant / Hatchie NWR (RS, VS), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 21 Mar (1) Fayette Co (Judy Dorsey); 24 Mar (1) Munford (DDP); both early. **Black-chinned Hummingbird**: thru 27 Mar (1) Fayette Co (Debbie Bruce), lrs. **Rufous Hummingbird**: thru 26 Mar (1) Fayette Co (Judy Dorsey). **King Rail**: 10 Apr (1)

Moscow, Fayette Co (RH, m.ob.); 6 May (1) Lake Co (DR, AL). **Virginia Rail**: 6 Apr (1) Black Bayou (DR); 19 Apr (1) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS). **Common Gallinule**: 25 May (1) Reelfoot L, Obion Co (DR).

Shorebirds: **Black-necked Stilt**: 12 Mar (2) North Treatment Plant (BFo), ers; 30 Apr (104) Robinson Bayou (MAG), max in northern Cos; 12 May (2) Hatchie NWR (Bob Ford). **American Avocet**: 6 Apr (1) Savannah Bottoms (Clyde Cole, photo on eBird); 20 Apr (2) Hwy 88 Bottoms, Lauderdale Co (MCT). **Black-bellied Plover**: 18-22 Apr (1-6) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS, MAG, MCT); 25 May (1) Ensley (RH). **American Golden-Plover**: 17 Mar (15) Lake Co (RS, DR, AL), ers; 11 Apr (700) Great River Rd (RS, VS), max. **Upland Sandpiper**: 20 Apr / 6 May (1) Lake Co (RH et al. / RS). **Whimbrel**: 11-12 May (2-1) Robinson Bayou (DR); 22 May (1) Hatchie NWR (RS, VS). **Hudsonian Godwit**: 18-20 / 24-25 Apr (3 / 1) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS, m.ob. / MAG). **Marbled Godwit**: 13 Apr (1) Hwy 79W, Lake Co (DR); 18 Apr (1) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS, m.ob.). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 12-14 May (1) Robinson Bayou (MAG, MCT, m.ob.). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 29 Mar (1) Black Bayou (RS), ers; 27 Apr (65) Robinson Bayou (VS), max. **Sanderling**: 21 Apr / 14 May (1) Robinson Bayou (Glen Criswell fide MAG / MCT). **Dunlin**: 29 Mar (3) Black Bayou (RS), ers; 14 May (800) Robinson Bayou (AL), max. **Baird's Sandpiper**: 14 Apr (1) Savannah Bottoms (Melvin Martin fide RS); 27-30 Apr (1) Robinson Bayou (VS, MAG). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 19 Apr - 12 May (1-78) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS, MAG, MCT); 23 Apr (3) Savannah Bottoms (RS); 20 May (2) Gibson Co (MAG); 22 May (30) Ensley (RS, VS). **Western Sandpiper**: 29 Mar (1) Black Bayou (RS). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 13 Apr / 12 May (2 / 39) Robinson Bayou (AL / MAG, MCT), ers / max. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 9 Mar (4) jct Hwy 79 / Great River Rd, Lake Co (DR), ers; 11 Apr (700) Hwy 88 Bottoms, Lauderdale Co (RS, VS); 18 / 22 Apr (1500) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS / MAG); 19 Apr (2200) Black Bayou (RS, VS), new high count in state. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 21 Mar (1) Hwy 78, Lake Co (RS, VS), ers. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 30 Apr (2500) Robinson Bayou (MAG), max. **Willet**: 15 Apr (3) Black Bayou (BFo); 15 Apr (1) Lower Hatchie NWR, Lauderdale Co (DDP); 3 May (7) Paris Landing SP (SR, CR). **Greater Yellowlegs**: 18 Apr (1100) Great River Rd (RS, VS), max. **Wilson's Phalarope**: 29 Mar / 10-20 Apr (1 / 2) Black Bayou (RS / DDP); 18 Apr - 17 May (max 65 on 27 Apr) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS, MAG, MCT, m.ob.); 23 Apr (2) Savannah Bottoms (RS); 24 Apr (8) Hatchie NWR (Gaynell Perry).

Gull - Falcon: **Franklin's Gull**: 26 Mar (1) Robinson Bayou (MAG). **Least Tern**: 2 May (2) Lauderdale Co (MAG), ers. **Black Tern**: 27 Apr (1) Reelfoot L (RS, VS, DR), ers; 13 May (9) Paris Landing SP (AL), max. **Common Tern**: 27 Apr (1) Reelfoot L (RS, VS, DR); 29 Apr (1) Gibson Co L (MAG). **Pacific Loon**: 27 Apr (1) Reelfoot L (RS, VS, DR). **Common Loon**: 31 Mar (30) Gibson Co L (MAG). **Neotropic Cormorant**: 12 / 29 Mar (1) Lake Co (AL, CBz / RS); 20 Mar (1) Hatchie NWR (RH); 18 May (1) Tennemo Levee (MCT). **Anhinga**: 7 May (1) Reelfoot L (RS, VS); 25 May (3) Ensley (RH). **American White Pelican**: 10 Mar - 16 Apr (up to 600) Reelfoot L (RS, VS, DR, AL); 5 May (55) Tennemo Levee (DR, AL); 14 May (92) Lake Co (AL). **American Bittern**: 22 Mar / 2 Apr (1) Hatchie NWR (RS, VS / DDP); 25 Mar (1) Mineral Slough (RH); 8 Apr (1) Fayette Co (DDP); 13 Apr / 19 Apr / 19 May

(1) Black Bayou (DR, RS, VS). **Least Bittern**: 6 May (1) Robinson Bayou (RS, MCT, MAG); 18 / 27 May (1) Black Bayou (DR / AL). **Cattle Egret**: 22 Mar (1) Tiptonville, Lake Co (RS, VS), ers. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 11 Apr (1) Black Bayou (RS, VS). **White Ibis**: 3 May (4 ad) Shelby Farms (CVN). **Glossy Ibis**: 28 Apr (1) Thorny Cypress WMA (DR, AL, RS). **White-faced Ibis**: 18 Apr (5) Chic Rd, Dyer Co (RS, VS); 18 / 23 Apr (1) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS, MAG, MCT); 20 Apr (1) Black Bayou (RS, VS); 28 Apr (3) Thorny Cypress WMA (DR, AL, RS). **Plegadis sp.**: 6 Apr (7) Hatchie NWR (DR). **Mississippi Kite**: 21 Apr (1) Millington, Shelby Co (Van Harris), ers; 24 Apr (1) Savannah Bottoms (Melvin Martin). **Swainson's Hawk**: 26 Apr (1 im) Dyer Co (RS, VS, photo on eBird); 13 May (1) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS). **Rough-legged Hawk**: thru 20 Mar (1) Jolly Landing, Lake Co (m.ob.). **Long-eared Owl**: thru 23 Mar (3) Dyer Co (MAG), continuing at roost. **Short-eared Owl**: 1 Mar (2) Bungie Rd, Dyer Co (AL). **Merlin**: 23 Apr (1) Shelby Farms (Martha Waldron), lrs. **Peregrine Falcon**: 29 Mar - 27 Apr (1-3) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS, MAG, MCT); 30 Mar (1) Reelfoot L (RS); 15 Apr (1) Black Bayou (BFo); 18 Apr (1) Great River Rd (RS, VS); 23 Apr (1) Savannah Bottoms (RS); 28 Apr (1) Thorny Cypress WMA (DR, AL); 1 May (1) T.O. Fuller SP (David Hilgeman).

Kingbird - Catbird: **Western Kingbird**: 1 / 15 May (2 / 6) President's Island, Shelby Co (Maureen Ellis / David Hamilton), ers / max; 22 May (3) Ensley (RS, VS). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 1 May (1) President's Island, Shelby Co (Maureen Ellis). **Ash-throated Flycatcher**: 5-9 May (1) Fritz Landing, Lake Co (RS, VS, m.ob.). **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 7 / 13 May (1) Reelfoot L (CBz / RS, VS); 15 May (1) Tiptonville Levee Rd, Lake Co (DDP); 20-21 May (1) T.O. Fuller SP (RH); 20 May (1) Overton Park (BFo); 30 May (1) Haywood Co (RH); 31 May (1) Wolf River WMA, Fayette Co (DDP). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 12 May (1) Lake Co (RS, VS); 18 May (1) Lake Co (MCT); 18 May (1) Tennemo Levee (MAG); 19 May (1) Black Bayou (DR); 23 May (1) Hatchie NWR (MCT); 27 May (1) Collierville (RH). **Alder Flycatcher**: 5-18 May (1-2) Fritz Landing, Lake Co (RS, VS, MAG, MCT); 12 May (1) Fayette Co (RH); 20 May (3) T.O. Fuller SP (RH); 21 May (1) Black Bayou (AJT); 21 May (1) Shelby Farms (CVN). **Vermilion Flycatcher**: 27 May (1 ad male) Fayette Co (Joanie Webb, photo on eBird). **White-eyed Vireo**: 10 / 17 Mar (1) Reelfoot Lake SP (RS, VS), wintering or early? **Bell's Vireo**: 28-30 Apr (3) Thorny Cypress WMA (DR, AL, m.ob.); 5 May (2) Moss Island WMA (DR, AL); 17 May (2) Tumbleweed WMA, Lake Co (AJT); 18 / 27 May (1 / 3) Black Bayou (DR / AL); 29 May (1) Shelby Farms (RH, BFo). **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 25 Mar (1) Mineral Slough (RH), early state; 26 Mar (1) Shelby Forest (AJT). **Blue-headed Vireo**: 7 Mar (1) Lake Co (AL); 10 Mar (2) Shelby Co (Wayne Kirk); both early. **Warbling Vireo**: 2 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (BFo), ers. **Fish Crow**: 10 Mar (4) Camden WMA, Benton Co (DR); 18 Apr (2) Weakley Co (SY); 23 Apr (6) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat). **Tree Swallow**: 19 Apr (7500) Robinson Bayou (RS, VS), max. **Marsh Wren**: 29 May (1) Shelby Farms (RH, BFo), lrs. **Swainson's Thrush**: 10 Apr (2) Black Bayou (DDP), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 25 Mar (1) Mineral Slough (RH),early state; 30 Mar (1) Black Bayou (BFo, RH). **Gray Catbird**: 14 Mar (1) Overton Park (Melissa McMasters).

Sparrow - Bunting: **Lark Sparrow**: 10-27 Apr (1-2, at 3 sites) Lake Co (DDP, RS, VS, AL);

10 Apr (1) near Jackson, Madison Co (Ken Oeser); 11 Apr thru season (1-4, at 4 sites) Gibson Co (MAG); 26 May (1) Shelby Farms (BFo); 27 May (4, at 3 sites) Crockett Co (MAG); 27 May (1) Haywood Co (MAG). **LeConte's Sparrow**: thru 20 Apr (1-3) Black Bayou (RS, VS, m.ob.). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 1 Mar (1) Lake Co (RS), ers. **Swamp Sparrow**: 23 May (1) Paris Landing SP (AL), lrs. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: 19 Apr (1 male) Shelby Farms (RH, CVN); 7 May (1 im male) Tiptonville, Lake Co (RS, VS, m.ob.); 12 May (1 female) Robinson Bayou (MAG, MCT). **Bobolink**: 18 Apr (1) Dyer Co (RS, VS), ers. **Western Meadowlark**: 2 / 20 Mar (15 / 10) N. Garrett Sawmill Rd, Obion Co (MAG); 21 Mar (1) Greasy Lane, Lake Co (RS). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 23 Mar (12) Lake Co (MAG). **Golden-winged Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Overton Park (BFo); 28 Apr (1) Tennemo Levee (DR, AL); 1 May (1) Moss Island WMA (DDP); 7 May (3) Reelfoot L (RS, VS); 13 May (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Black-and-white Warbler**: 20 Mar (1) Hatchie NWR (RH), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 28 Mar (1) Weakley Co (David Pitts, Marion Pitts), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 9 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (Judy Dorsey), ers. **Mourning Warbler**: 3 May (1) Lauderdale Co (MCT, MAG); 5 May (2) Moss Island WMA (DR, AL); 6-7 May (1-2) Reelfoot L (DR, AL); 18 May (1-2) Tennemo Levee (MCT, MAG); 19 / 21 May (1) Black Bayou (DR / AJT); 19 May (1) Reelfoot State WMA, Lake Co (DR); 1 Jun (1) Paris, Henry Co (Robert Wheat). **Kentucky Warbler**: 2 Apr (1) Hatchie NWR (DDP), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 6 Mar (1, at feeder) Collierville (RH), wintering bird reappeared after last sighting on 7 Feb. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 7 Apr (1) Robbins-Halle Park, Shelby Co (CVN), ers; 31 May (1 female) Munford (DDP), lrs. **Painted Bunting**: 29 Apr (1 male) Memphis (Mary Ganaway); 30 Apr - 1 May (1 female, at feeder) Gibson Co (Steve Yarbrough, photo on eBird); 3 May (1 female, at feeder) Munford (DDP); 22 May (4 males, 2 females) Ensley (RS, VS), max.

Locations: Black Bayou - Lake Co; Collierville - Shelby Co; Ensley - Shelby Co; Great River Rd - Dyer Co (unless specified otherwise); Hatchie NWR - Haywood Co; Mineral Slough - Fayette Co; Moss Island WMA - Dyer Co; Munford - Tipton Co; North Treatment Plant - Shelby Co; Overton Park - Shelby Co; Paris Landing SP - Henry Co; Reelfoot L - Lake Co (unless specified otherwise); Robinson Bayou - Lake Co; Savannah Bottoms - portion in western Hardin Co; Shelby Farms - Shelby Co; Shelby Forest – Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Shelby Co; Tennemo Levee - Dyer Co; Thorny Cypress WMA - Dyer Co; T.O. Fuller SP - Shelby Co.

DICK D. PRESTON, Munford, TN dickpreston48@gmail.com

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION - - Weather for Middle Tennessee in March saw temperatures 5.9 degrees above normal. Conversely, both April and May were about 1 degree below normal. Rainfall was above normal in both March (+ 2.4 inches) and April (+ 0.8 inch). Precipitation for May was 2.8 inches below normal.

There were no real surprises this spring. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are becoming more frequent during migration. Mississippi Kites have been reported more often, as well. There were good numbers of Mourning and Black-throated Blue Warblers and Black-billed

Cuckoos. American Avocet and Marbled Godwit were seen as were good numbers of Willets. Other notables included Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Brown Pelican, White-faced Ibis, and Franklin's Gull.

Whistling-Duck - Crane: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: 24 Apr (1) Old Hickory L (MS, Ken Oeser); 5 May (2) Cross Cr NWR (SY); 8 May (4) Mt Juliet, Wilson Co (JN, RN, CA); 31 May (2) West Stones R Greenway, Rutherford Co (JW); 31 May - 4 Jun (1) Hendersonville, Sumner Co (fide MS). **Snow Goose**: 18 Apr (1, blue) Drake's Cr (Barbara Harris), lrs. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 3-12 May (1) Drake's Cr (MS, GG), lrs. **Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal**: 15 Mar (1 male) Pickwick L (RS). **Common Goldeneye**: 25 Apr (1 female) Old Hickory L (RS, VS), lrs. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 15 Mar (129) Duck R Unit (DR), max. **Western Grebe**: thru 10 Mar (1) Percy Priest L (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 5 / 20 / 24 May (1) Radnor L (JKS / FF / PL); 7-9 May (1) Wilson Co (JN); 9-11 May (1) Shelby Park and Bottoms (MS, GG, PDC); 14 May (1) Harpeth R Greenway, Davidson Co (GG); 25 May (1) Mill Cr, Davidson Co (Hugh Barger). **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: 27 Mar (1) Montgomery Co (SY), ers. **Virginia Rail**: 13 Mar (1) Humphreys Co (RS, VS); 5 Apr (1) Montgomery Co (Joe Hall). **Whooping Crane**: 17 Mar (1) Warren Co (Tommy Savage fide SNM).

Stilt - Tern: **Black-necked Stilt**: 11 Apr / 24 May (2 / 1) Duck R Unit (DR, AL / George Ross). **American Avocet**: 17 Apr / 5 May (6 / 1) Old Hickory L (Jerry Webb, m.ob.). **American Golden-Plover**: 10 Mar / 20 May (1) Duck R Unit (DR / RS), ers / lrs. **Upland Sandpiper**: 23 Apr (1) Walker Branch SNA (RS). **Marbled Godwit**: 13 Apr (2) Old Hickory L (PL, SL, photo). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 29 Apr (1) Murfreesboro (JN, RN). **Baird's Sandpiper**: 13 Apr (3) Duck R Unit (RS, VS); 16 Apr (1) Cross Cr NWR (CBz). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 24 Apr (1) Old Hickory L (MS); 25 Apr / 20 May (1 / 24) Duck R Unit (RS, VS); 17 May (4) Cross Cr NWR (AL, DR). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 3 Mar (19) Duck R Unit (DR), ers. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 5 May (12) Cross Cr NWR (SY). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 28 Mar / 28 Apr (14 / 15) Duck R Unit (DR / GG); 26 Apr (1) Eagleville, Rutherford Co (JN, RN); 26-29 Apr (2) Murfreesboro (JW, m.ob.); 29 Apr (1) Robertson Co (SR, CR). **Willet**: 23 / 26 Apr (28 / 1) Old Hickory L (FF, m.ob.); 23 Apr (9) Franklin, Williamson Co (JAr); 23 Apr (11) Buckner Park, Dickson Co (DR); 29 Apr (6) Radnor L (Randy Harrod, m.ob.); 8 / 14 May (1 / 2) Old Hickory L (Abra Osorio / PL). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 10 Apr / 20 May (1) Duck R Unit (SR, CR / RS); 28 Apr (1) Indian Mound, Stewart Co (CR, SR); 28 Apr (1) Cross Cr NWR (SY); 1 Jun (1) Eagleville, Rutherford Co (Hugh Barger, photo). **Little Gull**: thru 8 Mar (1) Percy Priest L (m.ob.). **Franklin's Gull**: 13 Apr (1) Old Hickory L (MS); 13 Apr (1) Duck R Unit (RS, VS). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 13 Apr (3 ad, 1 im) Old Hickory L (GG). **Least Tern**: 16 May (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Caspian Tern**: 23 Apr (70) Pickwick Dam (RS), max. **Black Tern**: 8 May (8) Pickwick Dam (RS). **Common Tern**: 16 May (2) Duck R Unit (RS).

Loon - Falcon: **Red-throated Loon**: 7 / 25 Mar (3 / 1) Percy Priest L (MS / Richard Connors, JKS); 7 Mar (1) Pickwick L (RS). **Pacific Loon**: thru 15 Mar / 10 Apr (1) Percy Priest L (m.ob. / PL, SL). **Neotropic Cormorant**: 28 Apr / 16 May (1) Duck R Unit (GG / RS). **Anhinga**: 16 / 20 May (1 male / 1 female) Duck R Unit (RS). **American White Pelican**:

7 Mar (13) Percy Priest L (MS); 8 Mar (125, flying north) Old Hickory L (MS); 10 Mar (35) Drake's Cr (Jerry Webb); 15 Mar (45) Pickwick L (RS); 25 Apr (5) Percy Priest WMA Field Trial Area, Rutherford Co (JN). **Brown Pelican**: 16 May (2 ad) Center Hill L, DeKalb Co (Mark Oldham, Sharon Oldham, Rachel Oldham, photo, fide Carol Williams). **American Bittern**: 4 Apr (1) Lobelville Bottoms, Perry Co (VS); 7 Apr (1) Armstrong Marsh, Hickman Co (RS); 17-28 Apr (1) Discovery Wetlands, Rutherford Co (Mike O'Malley, m.ob.); 30 Apr (1) Shelton Ferry WMA (Sharon Arnold). **Least Bittern**: 4 May (1) Timberland Park, Williamson Co (JAr, photo). **Snowy Egret**: 25 Apr (1) Drake's Cr (MS). **Little Blue Heron**: 28 Mar (1 ad) Perry Co (RS), ers; 11-13 Apr (1) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (Kevin Bowden); 21 Apr (1) Wilson Co (CA). **Cattle Egret**: 27 Mar (1) Williamson Co (JAr), ers. **Green Heron**: 25 Mar (1) Hickman Co (RS), ers. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 24 Mar (1) Walker Branch SNA (RS, DR), ers. **Glossy Ibis**: 28-31 May (1) Duck R Unit (Cheryl Kelly, photo, fide GG). **White-faced Ibis**: 22-23 Apr (1) Barkley WMA, Stewart Co (Don Blunk / Joe Hall, photo). **Osprey**: 1 Mar (1) Percy Priest L (GG, MS), ers. **Mississippi Kite**: 16 May (2, carrying nest material) Clarksville (Stefan Woltmann); 26 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo); 29 May (1) Duck R Unit (GG). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 28 Mar (1) Perry Co (RS), ers. **Barn Owl**: 1 Mar (1) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (GG). **Peregrine Falcon**: 8 May (1) Old Hickory L (CA, FF).

Flycatcher - Sparrow: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 17 Apr (1) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (JKS), ers; 23 Apr (1) Pickwick Dam (RS); 2 May (1) Savannah Bottoms, Hardin Co (Ken Oeser); 19 May (1) Wartrace, Bedford Co (Melissa Turrentine); 27 May (pair) McKnight Park, Murfreesboro (JW). **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 1-3 / 21-22 May (1) Radnor L (FF, m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 13 / 21 May (1) Radnor L (EBo / FF). **Alder Flycatcher**: 9 May (3) Perry Co (RS, VS); 16 May (1) Shelby Park and Bottoms (MS, PDC). **Bell's Vireo**: 7 May (4) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Fish Crow**: 7 Mar (20) Gooch Rd, Hardin Co (RS); 14 Mar / 9 May (1 / 2) Perry Co (RS, VS); 10 Apr - 7 May (1-2) Cross Cr NWR (SY, m.ob.); 20 Apr - 5 May (1-4) Old Hickory L (GG, m.ob.), 1st Co record; 23 Apr (1) Barkley WMA, Stewart Co (SY). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 6 Mar (1) marsh on Walter S. Davis Blvd, Nashville (FF), ers. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 19 Mar (2) Hardin Bottoms, Perry Co (VS), ers. **Red Crossbill**: 29 May (3) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo). **Bachman's Sparrow**: 20 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 29 May (8) Fort Campbell (DMo), max. **Lark Sparrow**: 23 Apr (1) Walker Branch SNA (RS); 6 May (2) Coffee Co (SNM); 7 May (1) Wilson Co (JW); 10 May (1) Lawrence Co (Damien Simbeck); 25 May (2) Rutherford Co (JN, RN). **Dark-eyed Junco**: 1 May (1) Davidson Co (FF), lrs. **LeConte's Sparrow**: 25 Apr (1) Shelton Ferry WMA (RS, VS), lrs. **Henslow's Sparrow**: 5 Apr (1) Harlinsdale Farms, Williamson Co (JAr); 21-30 Apr (2-3) Shelton Ferry WMA (DR, m.ob.); 7 May (16) Fort Campbell (DMo).

Warbler - Dickcissel: **Worm-eating Warbler**: 4 Apr (1) Perry Co (VS), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 10 Mar (1) Montgomery Co (Stefan Woltmann), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 24 Apr (1) Natchez Trace, Williamson Co (Paige O'Neal); 27 Apr (1) Woods Reservoir, Franklin Co (Martin Hall); 28 Apr (1) Murfreesboro (JW); 30 Apr (1) Radnor L

(FF); 7 May (1) Cross Cr NWR (DR); 9 May (2) Perry Co (RS); 18 May (1) Radnor L (Chris Stafford). **Blue-winged Warbler**: 28 Mar (2) Perry Co (VS); 31 Mar (1) Lawrence Co (Jim Williams, photo); both early. **Swainson's Warbler**: 9 May (1) Linden, Perry Co (VS, RS). **Connecticut Warbler**: 11 May (1) Virgin Falls SNA, White Co (Melinda Welton); 12 / 16 May (1 / 2) Radnor L (SL / Chris Sloan, m.ob.); 15-16 May (1) Shelby Park and Bottoms (MS, PDC, FF); 19 May (1) Perry Co (RS). **Mourning Warbler**: 29 Apr - 16 May (1-3) Radnor L (Josh Stevenson, FF, m.ob.); 7-10 May (2) Shelby Park and Bottom (PDC, MS); 12 May (1) Duck R Unit (Shawna Ellis); 20 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Northern Parula**: 19 Mar (1) Hardin Bottoms, Perry Co (VS), ers. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 14 Apr (1) Dickson Co (RS), ers. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 8 Apr (1) Nashville (GG), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 30 Apr - 1 May (1 male) Ellington Ag Center, Davidson Co (Richard Connors, m.ob.); 1 May (1 male) Barfield Crescent Park, Rutherford Co (JN, RN); 2 May (1 male) Shelby Park and Bottoms (MS, PDC); 7 May (1 male) Radnor L (FF, m.ob.); 12 May (1) Bedford Co (Melissa Turrentine); 13 May (1 female) Discovery Center, Rutherford Co (JW, photo); 14 May (1 male) Hendersonville, Sumner Co (MS). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 24 Mar (3) Pickwick L (RS, DR, AL), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 31 Mar (1) Perry Co (RS), ers. **Indigo Bunting**: 4 Mar (1, at feeder) Bellevue, Davidson Co (FF); 14 Mar (1) Warren Co (SNM); both early. **Dickcissel**: 21 Apr (2) Shelton Ferry WMA (DR), ers.

Locations: Cross Cr NWR - Stewart Co; Drake's Cr - on Old Hickory L, Sumner Co; Duck R Unit - unit of Tennessee NWR, Humphreys Co; Fort Campbell - Montgomery Co (unless specified otherwise); Old Hickory L - Davidson Co; Percy Priest L - Davidson Co; Pickwick L - Hardin Co; Radnor L - Davidson Co; Shelby Park and Bottoms - Davidson Co; Shelton Ferry WMA - Montgomery Co; Walker Branch SNA - Hardin Co.

STEPHEN C. ZIPPERER, Murfreesboro, TN stczipperer@gmail.com

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - Temperatures this season were quite variable. March was almost 7 degrees warmer than normal, while April and May saw below average temperatures. In fact, the first half of May was the coolest on record in the Tri-cities. Rainfall was above average each month, most notably in March and April. Indeed, this was the wettest April on record in the Tri-cities area, as was the period of January through May.

Birding highlights were numerous. There were two reports of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, an echo of the six sightings last spring. Common Mergansers were seen in three potential breeding locations. Exceptional numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos occurred, with about 18 separate reports. Common Gallinules appeared at four sites, as this region somewhat curiously continues to lead the state in sightings of this marsh dweller. Shorebirds were highlighted by American Avocet (two reports), Long-billed Dowitcher (four reports), Willet (seven reports, including a high of 187 birds), and a Red-necked Phalarope. A Royal Tern fly-by was most unexpected, especially in the absence of tropical weather influence. Waders were led by single Tricolored Heron and White-faced Ibis. Unusual raptors

included two reports of Mississippi Kites and a Short-eared Owl found freshly dead. A good number of Olive-sided Flycatchers were found, and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to breeding sites in the Sequatchie Valley. Philadelphia Vireos are typically rare in spring in East Tennessee, but eight sightings occurred this season. Fish Crows and Common Ravens continue to be seen in new areas; a newly discovered raven nest under a bridge adds to the few Tennessee nests on man-made structures. The mild conditions in March may have contributed to several earlier than normal arrivals this spring, including Yellow-throated Vireo, several warbler species, and Scarlet Tanager.

Whistling-Duck - Hummingbird: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: 4 Apr (6) Sycamore Cr, Hwy 33, Claiborne Co (Frank Woodward); 22 May (6) Sam Johnson Rd, Bradley Co (Michael Brothers); photos for both on eBird. **Snow Goose**: 28 Apr (1, white) Claiborne Co (MM, BSc). **Ross's Goose**: 11 Mar (1) Cumberland Co (EKL). **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 5 Mar (3) Jefferson Co (m.ob.); 11 Mar (1) Sevier Co (Michelle Pruitt); 5 Apr (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **Greater Scaup**: 3 Mar - 3 Apr, several reports of 1-5 birds from Hamilton, Hawkins, Jefferson, Knox, Marion, Roane, and Sullivan Cos., notable after few winter reports. **Lesser Scaup**: 13 Mar (525) Boone L (RLK, BFi, SQ), max. **Surf Scoter**: 6 Apr (1) Tennessee R, Knox Co (Howard Haysom, photo on eBird). **White-winged Scoter**: 8-15 Mar (1) Chickamauga L (Libby Wolfe, m.ob.); 15 Mar (3) Boone L (BFi, SQ). **Common Goldeneye**: 25 Apr (1 female) Chickamauga L (BD), lrs. **Common Merganser**: 13 Mar (1 female) Watauga R, Washington Co (RLK); 31 Mar (1 female) Norris Dam tailwaters, Anderson Co (Karen Eagle); 22 Apr (1 male, 2 females) Clinch R, Kyle's Ford, Hancock Co (SHu). **Red-breasted Merganser**: 30 May (1) Tellico L, Loudon Co (Geoffrey White, photo), lrs. **Ruddy Duck**: 14 May (1) Limestone, Washington Co (SHu), lrs. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 1-2 May (1) Lookout Mtn (BD); 2 / 4 May (1) Kingsport (Gary Bailey / BFi, SQ); 3 May (1) Chuck Swan WMA, Union Co (MM, BSc); 4-11 May (1) Johnson City (DK); 8-9 May (1) Sharp's Ridge (EBo, SW); 9 May (1) Kyker Ferry Rd, Sevier Co (KW); 10 / 16 May (1) Bristol (Ron Carrico); 14 May (1) Boone Dam (Geoff Hill); 14 May (1) Lick Cr Bottoms WMA, Greene Co (Jeffrey Bailey); 16 May (1) Petros, Morgan Co (BSc); 17 May (1) Seven Islands SP (EBo); 17 / 26 May (1) Norris Dam SP, Anderson Co (Ron Shrieves / Karen Eagle); 20 May (1) Walker Springs Park, Knox Co (Howard Cox); 21 May (1) Frozen Head SNA, Morgan Co (Mike Ryon); 22 May (1) L Tansi, Cumberland Co (Pam Barrett); 31 May (1) Cross Mtn, Campbell Co (KW). **Chimney Swift**: 26 Mar (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RDH, DMy), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 28 Mar (1) Hamilton Co (Libby Wolfe), ers. **Black-chinned Hummingbird**: thru 18 Apr (1) McMinn Co (Deanna Peck).

Rail - Tern: **Virginia Rail**: mid Feb - 28 Mar (1-3) Kingsport (BFi, SQ, m.ob.); 17 Mar (1) Alcoa (TH); 28 Mar - 18 Apr (1) Gupton Wetland (RoK); 6 Apr (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 28 Apr (1) Kyker Bottoms (WB); 14 May (1) Beech Cr, Hawkins Co (SHu); 16 May (2) Seven Islands SP (Bill Keeler, m.ob.). **Common Gallinule**: 25 Apr (1) Heritage Center Greenway (Murray Wade / RoK); 26 Apr - 11 May (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 20 May (1) Gupton Wetland (EBo); 25-31 May (1) Kingsport (BFi, SQ, m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane**: 16-17 Apr (1) Johnson City (John Neth, m.ob.), very tame bird found in grocery store parking

lot, same bird relocated 19-20 Apr at Limestone, Washington Co. **American Avocet**: 23 Apr (7) Chickamauga Dam (BD); 4 May (19) Concord Park (Colin Sumrall, m.ob.). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 23 Apr (1) Chattanooga (BD); 27 Apr - 28 May (1-2, intermittently) Powell Valley (RDH, DMy, Nell Moore, m.ob.); 11-15 May (1) Alcoa (RW, m.ob.); 13 May (1) Brainerd Levee (JR). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 23 May (135) Powell Valley (RDH, DMy), max. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 21 Apr (2) Grundy Co (RSh, DSh, photo); 11 May (9) John Sevier L (SHu); 23 May (2) Powell Valley (BSc). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 26-27 Apr (1) Cherokee Farm, Knox Co (SW, m.ob.); 26-29 Apr (3-1) McCleary Bend, Sevier Co (RDH, DMy, m.ob.); 27 Apr (1) Powell Valley (RDH, DMy); 30 Apr - 1 May (3) Brainerd Levee (BD, m.ob.); good number of reports for East Tenn. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 21 Mar (1) Paddle Cr pond, Sullivan Co (JHM, BP, JP), ers. **Willet**: 18 / 28 Apr (1 / 50) Chickamauga Dam (SKJ / DRJ); 26 Apr (42) Lakeshore Park, Roane Co (RoK, m.ob.); 30 Apr (1) Henderson Island, Jefferson Co (MM, BSc); 29 Apr - 1 May (1) Concord Park (m.ob.); 8 May (35) Chester Frost Park (SKJ); 8 May (187) Tennessee R, Hamilton Co (BD); good showing. **Wilson's Snipe**: 25-26 May (1) Johnson City (DK), new late date in northeast Tenn. **Red-necked Phalarope**: 21 May (2) Powell Valley (Doug Raybuck). **Laughing Gull**: 13 / 24 Apr (1 / 2) Chickamauga Dam (DRJ, m.ob. / JR, m.ob.). **ROYAL TERN**: 30 Apr (1) Fort Patrick Henry Dam, Sullivan Co (PGR, Michele Sparks), pending TBRC acceptance. **Forster's Tern**: 22 Mar (1) Nickajack L, Marion Co (TLR), ers.

Pelican - Falcon: **American White Pelican**: 1 / 20 Mar (55 / 1) Fort Loudoun L, Knox Co (Chris Welsh / BSc); 4 Mar (190) Watts Bar L, Roane Co (RoK); 23 Mar - 2 Apr (10-40) Chickamauga L (SKJ). **American Bittern**: 1 / 15-18 Mar (1) Kingsport (PGR / Shane Falin); 26 Mar - 28 Apr (1-2) Kyker Bottoms (RW, m.ob.); 11 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (Gary Brunvoll); 16-22 Apr (1-2) Gupton Wetland (RoK, m.ob.). **Least Bittern**: 18 Apr - 7 May (1) Gupton Wetland (RoK, m.ob.); 18 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (TLR, SKJ). **Snowy Egret**: 18 Apr (1) VW Wetland, Hamilton Co (Carol Smith, m.ob.); 30 Apr (1) Limestone, Washington Co (RRK); 14 May (1) Brainerd Levee (SKJ, JR, m.ob.). **Tricolored Heron**: 29 Apr (1) Grainger Co (David Buehler). **Little Blue Heron**: 12 Apr (1 ad) Concord Park (SW); 16 Apr (1 ad) Mossy Cr, Jefferson Co (Jeremy Dotson); 19 Apr (1 ad) VW Wetland, Hamilton Co (BD); 16 May (8 ad, nest building) Barker Island, Watts Bar L, Rhea Co (RSh, DSh), known nest site. **Green Heron**: 29 Mar (1) White's Mill Refuge, Blount Co (Evan Kidd), ers. **Cattle Egret**: 28 Mar (3) north of Benton, Polk Co (RHo), ers. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 18 Mar thru season (1-9) Kingsport (Bill Grigsby, m.ob.); 6 Apr thru season (1-2) Maryville Greenway, Blount Co (Evan Kidd); 10 Apr (1) Halls Greenway, Knox Co (SW, m.ob.). **White-faced Ibis**: 4 May (1) Hitch Pond, Blount Co (RW, m.ob., photo). **Northern Harrier**: 7 May (1) Rhea Co (RSh, DSh), lrs. **Mississippi Kite**: 5 May (1) Chattanooga (Gary Brunvoll, photo); 16 May (1) Morristown, Hamblen Co (Kirk Huffstater). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 28 Mar (1) Knox Co / Cumberland Co (BSC / EKL), ers. **Short-eared Owl**: 11 May (1, found freshly dead, hanging on barbed wire fence) Anderson Co (fide Talissa Ralph). **Merlin**: 9 May (1) Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh); 22 May (1) Bristol (Cade Campbell), lrs. **Peregrine Falcon**: 8 Mar (1) Kingsport (Charlie Warden, Wendy Williams, photo); 27 Mar (1) Knoxville (Jerry Ledbetter); 14 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (Luke Thompson); 17 Apr

(1) Boone L (Bennett Cowan, photo); 26 Apr (1) Claiborne Co (BSc); 28 May (1) Douglas Dam, Sevier Co (Huck Hutchens).

Flycatcher - Blackbird: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 18 Apr (2) East Valley Rd, Sequatchie Co (RSh, DSh); 27 Apr - 9 May (1-2) Nine-mile Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh); 9 May (1) Brushy Cemetery, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh); 23 May (2, nest building) Melvine Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (EKL). **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 5-6 / 13 May (1) Sharp's Ridge (SW / Mike Winck); 9 May (1) Hamilton Co (Luke Thompson, photo); 14 May (1) Maryville College Woods (Mike Winck); 21 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (Kent DuBois, m.ob.); 23 May (1) Melton Hill Park, Knox Co (Jeremy Dotson, photo); good number of reports. **Willow Flycatcher**: 5 May (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK), ers. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 26 Mar (1) Craven's House (Kevin Calhoon), early for region; 2 Apr (1) Bays Mtn, Sullivan Co (Gary Bailey). **Philadelphia Vireo**: 8+ reports in region, much more than normal for spring (often goes unreported in that season). **Red-eyed Vireo**: 2 Apr (1) Craven's House (Gary Brunvoll, Jeffrey Schaarschmidt), ers. **Fish Crow**: thru season (2-4) Kingsport (m.ob.); 5 Mar (22) Johnson City (LCM), max; 9 / 13 Mar (1-2) Bristol (Ron Carrico); 13 Apr (10) Steele Cr Park, Sullivan Co (Don Holt et al.); 16 Apr (1) Mossy Cr, Jefferson Co (Jeremy Dotson). **Common Raven**: 1 Mar (4) north of Graysburg, Greene Co (Roger Shaw); 17 Mar (1) Hatcher's Pond, near Benton, Polk Co (RHo); 3 Apr (1) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (Gary Bailey); 13 / 18 Apr (3 yg in nest / 3 yg fledged) Bristol Motor Speedway, Sullivan Co (Michele Sparks), have nested here 7 of last 8 years; 17 Apr (1) Eidson, Hawkins Co (SHu); 22 Apr (1) Kyle's Ford, Hancock Co (SHu); 27 Apr (pair, used nest) Hwy 75 bridge near Boone Dam (RLK); 30 Apr (1) Maryville College Woods (TH); 11-21 May (1-2) North Cumberland WMA, Campbell Co (Doug Raybuck); 16 May (1) Petros, Morgan Co (BSc). **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 4 May (2) Fentress Co (RDH, DMy). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 15 Mar (1) Seven Islands SP (Colin Sumrall), ers. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: 19 May (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), lrs. **Gray Catbird**: 22 Mar (1) Kyker Bottoms (WB), ers. **American Pipit**: 15 Mar (240) Lakeshore Park, Roane Co (RoK), max; 7 May (1) Polk Co (SKJ et al.), lrs. **Pine Siskin**: from Mar thru 16 Apr (2-3) Marion Co (TLR). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 8 Apr (1) Polk Co (RHo), ers. **Lark Sparrow**: 26-27 Apr (1) Alcoa (RW, m.ob.); 5 May (1) Paddle Cr pond, Sullivan Co (Bennett Cowan). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 13 Apr (1) Brainerd Levee (DRJ). **Swamp Sparrow**: 12 May (1) Steele Cr Park, Sullivan Co (Don Holt), lrs. **Orchard Oriole**: 8 Apr (1) Chester Frost Park (SKJ), ers. **Rusty Blackbird**: 14 Mar (300) Springbrook Park, Blount Co (RW), max. **Brewer's Blackbird**: 1 Apr (1 male) Chattanooga (BD); 6 Apr (4 females) Snow Hill Rd, Hamilton Co (BD).

Warbler - Dickcissel: **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 16 Mar (1) Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong), ers. **Northern Waterthrush**: 9 Apr (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 24 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (Luke Thompson); 2 May (3) Campbell Co (David Buehler); 12 May (1) Anderson Co (MM); only reports. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 19 Mar (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 1 Apr (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 14 / 18-19 May (1) Maryville College Woods (Chuck Estes, Tony Headrick / RW, Doug Raybuck); 21 May (1) Rhea Co (RDH, DMy). **Mourning Warbler**:

13 May (1) Maryville College Woods (MM, BSc et al.); 25 May (1) Johnson City (DK et al.). **Common Yellowthroat**: 18 Mar (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 30 Mar (1) Hamilton Co (Kent DuBois), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 13 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge (EBo), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 7 Apr (1) Craven's House (Kevin Calhoon), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 18 Apr (1) Craven's House (BD), ers. **Palm Warbler**: 27 Mar (1, yellow) Chester Frost Park (SKJ, photo). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 26 Mar (1) Alcoa (TH), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 27 Mar (1) Rhea Co (RSh, DSh), ers. **Wilson's Warbler**: 16 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge (EBo), ers; above average number of reports this spring; 28 May (1) Seven Islands SP (Huck Hutchens), lrs. **Scarlet Tanager**: 1 Apr (1) Louisville Point Park, Blount Co (TH), ers. **Indigo Bunting**: 2 Apr (1) Seymour, Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong), ers. **Dickcissel**: reported in Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Monroe, Polk, Roane, Sevier, and Washington Cos.

Locations: Alcoa - Blount Co; Boone L - Sullivan Co; Brainerd Levee - Hamilton Co; Chester Frost Park - Hamilton Co; Chickamauga L - Hamilton Co; Concord Park - Knox Co; Craven's House - unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Hamilton Co; Gupton Wetland - Roane Co; Heritage Center Greenway - Roane Co; John Sevier L - Hawkins Co; Kyker Bottoms - Blount Co; Lookout Mtn - Hamilton Co; Maryville College Woods - Blount Co; Powell Valley - Claiborne Co; Seven Islands SP - Knox Co; Sharp's Ridge - Knox Co; Standifer Gap Marsh - Hamilton Co.

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Johnson City, TN rknight8@earthlink.net

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - March was very warm with temperatures averaging nearly 7 degrees above normal, while April and May were cooler than normal. It was a very wet spring with precipitation more than 8 inches above normal for the three month period.

Common Mergansers nested again on the Little River in Blount County. Water levels were lower than usual at Lake Ocoee in Polk County resulting in some good shorebird sightings. Wintering Short-eared Owls lingered into late March in Cades Cove. Fish Crows continued to increase and appear in new areas in the northern mountain counties. A first record of Brown-headed Nuthatch occurred in Carter County, which was also a first in the five-county area of Northeast Tennessee

Duck - Willet: **Buffelhead**: 17 May (1) Wilbur L (BP, JP), lrs. **Common Goldeneye**: 2 May (1) Watauga R (BP, JP), lrs. **Common Merganser**: 4 Mar / 1 Apr (4 males / 2 males) Middle Prong Little Pigeon R, Sevier Co (KW); 11 Mar (1 male) Watauga R (LCM); 8 Apr - 28 May (4 separate broods of yg) Little R, between Walland and Townsend, Blount Co (RW, m.ob.); 7 May (1 male, 1 female) Hiwassee R, Polk Co (SKJ). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 2 May (1) South Holston L (RRK et al.); 12 / 27 May (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (Valerie Wininger / Billie Cantwell); 15 May (1) Hampton Cr Cove (RLK, Jacki Hinshaw). **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: 16 Mar (1) Wilbur L (BP, JP), ers. **Virginia Rail**: 28 May (3) Shady Valley (Adrianna Nelson, Cade Campbell). **Semipalmated Plover**: 11 May (141) L Ocoee (RHo), remarkable number for region. **Sanderling**: 18 May (1) L Ocoee (RHo, RDH, DMy), rare in spring. **Least**

Sandpiper: 18 May (35) L Ocoee (RDH, DMy), max. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 18 May (1) L Ocoee (RHo, RDH, DMy). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 18 May (16) L Ocoee (RDH, DMy), max. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 26 Apr (1) L Ocoee (RHo). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 18 May (26) L Ocoee (RDH, DMy), max. **Willet**: 26 Apr (17) L Ocoee (RHo).

Gull - Falcon: **Bonaparte's Gull**: 25 Mar (5) Shady Valley (John Shumate), 2nd valley record. **Forster's Tern**: 21 May (3) South Holston L (RRK, Richard Lewis, RLK). **Great Egret**: 1 Apr (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (LCM); 27 Apr (4) Watauga L, Carter Co (JHM); 14 May (1) Laurel L, Blount Co (Kat Barrow). **Osprey**: 26 May (pair, new nest) South Holston L, near dam (Mike Sanders). **Mississippi Kite**: 2 May (1) Sycamore Shoals SP, Carter Co (Bryan Stevens, photo); 2 May (1) Wear's Valley, Sevier Co (WB). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 31 May (1) Hampton Cr Cove (BFi, SQ). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 28 Mar (1) Carter Co (Tom McNeil), ers. **Short-eared Owl**: 5-25 Mar (2) Cades Cove, GSMNP (RW, m.ob.), continuing from winter. **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 3 Apr / 2 May (1) Roan Mtn (RLK / Fred Alsop). **Merlin**: 7 May (1) Reliance, Polk Co (RHo); 15 May (1) Elizabethton, Carter Co (Cade Campbell). **Peregrine Falcon**: 10 Mar (1) South Holston L (RLK et al.); 12 Mar (1) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (Matthew Wheat); 22 Mar / 22 Apr (1-2) Doe River Gorge, Carter Co (PGR, RLK); 14 Apr (1) Foothills Parkway, Blount Co (RW).

Flycatcher - Thrush: **Alder Flycatcher** 15 May (1) Roan Mtn (SHu), ers. **Willow Flycatcher**: 18 May (1) Pittman Center (KW), uncommon there. **White-eyed Vireo**: 24 Mar (1) Pittman Center (KW), ers. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 26 Apr (1) Roan Mtn SP (Cade Campbell); 18 May (1) Sycamore Cr, Monroe Co (David Buehler); rare in spring. **Fish Crow**: 21 Mar (1) South Holston L (RLK); 16 Apr (1) Atwood Rd, on Watauga Lake, Johnson Co (JHM, BP, JP), 1st Co record; 28 Apr (1) Piney Grove Rd, Carter Co (Tom McNeil, Cathy McNeil); 2 May (1) Erwin, Unicoi Co (Debi Campbell). **Common Raven**: 22 Mar (1, at nest) Doe River Gorge, Carter Co (PGR); 7 May (1) Reliance, Polk Co (SKJ). **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: mid Mar thru mid May (1, at feeder) Cove Ridge, on Watauga L, Carter Co (Ellen Parker, photo), 1st record in Northeast Tenn. **Marsh Wren**: 2 May (1) Shady Valley (RRK et al.). **Hermit Thrush**: 16 May (3) Mt LeConte, GSMNP (MGH); 25 May (10 / 2) Mt Guyot / Snake Den Ridge trail, GSMNP (MGH).

Finch - Grosbeak: **Purple Finch**: 25 May (1) Mt Guyot, GSMNP (MGH). **Red Crossbill**: thru season (5-14) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.), including 1 streaked juvenile on 26 May; 27 Apr (4) near Calderwood L, Blount Co (RW); 30 May (17) Pittman Center (KW); 21 May (16) Polk Co (fide RS); 25 May (2 / 7) Mt Guyot / Snake Den Ridge trail, GSMNP (MGH). **Pine Siskin**: thru season (5-30) Roan Mtn (RLK, m.ob.); thru 15 Apr (2-5) Townsend, Blount Co (Kat Barrow); 25 May (13) Mt Guyot, GSMNP (MGH). **Rusty Blackbird**: 13 Mar (20) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (Matthew Wheat); 14 Mar (12) Cades Cove, GSMNP (John O'Barr). **Golden-winged Warbler**: 24 Apr thru season (4-6) Hampton Cr Cove (David Irick, Connie Irick, m.ob.). **Prothonotary Warbler**: 25-31 May (1) Jacob's Cr, on South Holston L (Debi Campbell, m.ob.); 27-31 May (1) Watauga R (LCM, m.ob.); rare in this area. **Cerulean Warbler**: 8 Apr (1) Polk Co (RHo). **Northern Parula**: 20 Mar (1) Polk Co

(RHo), ers. **Magnolia Warbler**: 25 May (2 / 1) Mt Guyot / Snake Den Ridge trail, GSMNP (MGH). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 25 May (1) Mt Guyot, GSMNP (MGH). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 22 Mar (4) Polk Co (David Chaffin), ers. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 16 Apr (1) Wilbur L (BP, JP), ers.

Locations: GSMNP - Great Smoky Mtns National Park; Hampton Cr Cove - Carter Co; L Ocoee - Polk Co; Pittman Center - Sevier Co; Roan Mtn - Carter Co; Shady Valley - Johnson Co; South Holston L - Sullivan Co; Watauga R - Carter Co; Wilbur L - Carter Co.

RICHARD P. LEWIS, Bristol, TN mountainbirds@gmail.com

OBSERVERS

CA - Chris Agee
JAr - Jim Arnett
WB - Warren Bielenberg
CBz - Clay Bliznik
EBo - Eric Bodker
PDC - Phillip D. Casteel
BD - Bruce Dralle
FF - Frank Fekel
BFi - Bambi Fincher
BFo - Bob Foehring
GG - Graham Gerdeman
MAG - Mark A. Greene
RH - Rob Harbin
MGH - Michael G. Harvey
RDH - Ron D. Hoff
RHo - Rick Houlk
TH - Tom Howe
SHu - Susan Hubley
DRJ - Daniel R. Jacobson
SKJ - S.K. Jones
DK - David Kirschke
RLK - Richard L. Knight
RRK - Roy R. Knispel
RoK - Roger Kroodsma
PL - Pam Lasley
SL - Steven Lasley
EKL - Edmund K. LeGrand
AL - Andrew Lydeard
MM - Morton Massey
LCM - Larry C. McDaniel
JHM - Joe H. McGuiness
SNM - Susan N. McWhirter
DMo - Daniel Moss
DMy - Dollyann Myers
JN - Justin Nation
RN - Robin Nation
BP - Brookie Potter
JP - Jean Potter
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SQ - Sherrie Quillen
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MS - Michael Smith
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VS - Victor Stoll
MCT - Michael C. Todd
AJT - Allan J. Trently
CVN - Cliff VanNostrand
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RW - Randy Winstead
SY - Stanley York, Jr.

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The Migrant records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas.

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